Message Text

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ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ORM-03 AID-20 L-03 EB-11

AGR-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P R 081240Z NOV 73 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7321 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AORG (UNHCR) SU

SUBJ: RELIEF PROGRAM SOUTH SUDAN - UNHCR

REF: STATE 215702

1. UNHCR REGIONAL REP JAMIESON CALLED ON AMBASSADOR NOV 8
TO DISCUSS WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS 4.5 MILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION IN USG COMMODITY PLEDGE FOR RELIEF OPERATION IN SOUTH.
DRAWING ON REFTEL, AMBASSADOR SAID WE FEEL USG FOOD CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE TREATED AS FULFILLING ACTUAL NEED, AS CONTRASTED WITH AN ORIGINAL TENTATIVE ESTIMATE THAT HAS PROVED EXCESSIVE. WE UNDERSTOOD QUESTION HAD BEEN EXPLAINED FULLY TO JAMIESON IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 3, 1973. (PARA FOUR REFTEL).

2. JAMIESON REPLIED THAT WAS NOT HIS RECOLLECTION OF MAY 3 MEETING (NOR IS IT REFLECTED IN REPORT OF MEETING - STATE 86757). WHILE HE HAD BEEN GIVEN NO IRONCLAD ASSURANCE, EQUALLY HE HAD RECEIVED NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED HIM TO QUESTION WHAT HE REGARDED AS FIRM USG COMMODITY PLEDGE WHICH HE SAID WAS MADE CLEAR TO UNHCR IN CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPT, REITERATED BY OUR REP IN ECOSOC AND CONFIRMED IN DECEMBER, 1972, LETTER FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR REFUGEE OFFICE GENEVA. JAMIESON RECALLED THAT,

WHEN HE HAD DISCUSSED UNDERTAKING AID PROGRAM WITH VICE PRESIDENT BAGHIR AND OTHER TOP SUDANESE OFFICIALS IN APRIL, 1972, HE HAD INDICATED USG MIGHT HOPEFULLY PROVIDE ONE-HALF NEEDED FUNDS/COMMODITIES. BUT THIS COULD NOT BE DONE AS LONG AS GOS/USG DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BROKEN. JAMIESON SAID HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERSTOOD FROM FORMER CHARGE MOORE THAT THIS CONVERSATION HAD BEEN FACTOR IN SUDANESE DECISION RESUME RELATIONS. HE THEREFORE WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT INFORM SUDANESE THERE WAS SHORTFALL IN USG PLEDGE. WHILE HE RECOGNIZED PROBLEM WITH RESPECT CURRENT FOOD AVAILABILITIES, HE WONDERED IF UNHCR, WHICH IS SHORT SUDANESE POUNDS IN CONNECTION BRIDGE BUILDING, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SOUTH, MIGHT RECEIVE DONATION FROM USG LOCAL CURRENCY FUNDS. AMBASSADOR SAID HE UNAWARE STATUS OUR COUNTERPART FUNDS, IF EMBASSY WERE PROVIDED WITH LETTER DETAILING UNHCR LOCAL CURRENCY SHORTFALLS FOR THESE DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES, HE WOULD BE GLAD RAISE MATTER WITH WASHINGTON, JAMIESON PROMISED PROVIDE LETTER.

- 3. AMBASSADOR STRESSED OUR VIEW THAT OUR PLEDGE WAS GENERAL ONE TO SUPPLY FOOD ACCORDING TO NEEDS AS THEY DEVELOPED IN SOUTH AND THAT WE FELT ALL REFUGEES SO FAR RETURNED HAD BEEN FED. AGREEIPB WITH LATTER STATEMENT, JAMIESON SAID THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN PART THROUGH BORROWING FROM WFP AGAINST ASSUMED USG PLEDGE. MOREOVER, STILL WERE SOME 15,000 REFUGEES IN UGANDA WHO WOULD BE RETURNING SUDAN DURING NEXT MARCH. NEED FOR FOOD THEREFORE WAS CONTINUING. JAMIESON INDICATED HE WONDERING WHETHER HE SHOULD ASK UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REGUGEES SEND HIM TO WASHINGTON TO IRON OUT PROBLEM. IT WAS AGREED JAMIESON WOULD SEE AMBASSADOR AGAIN NOVEMBER 15 RPT 15 AFTER RETRUNING FROM HIS COMING TRIP SOUTH.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY UNCLEAR EXTEND TO WHICH JAMIESON'S RECOLLECTION STATUS USG PLEDGE MAY BE ACCURATE. BUT HE CLEARLY SEES HIMSELF IN BIND AND WOULD LIKE EITHER ADDITIONAL FOOD OR ADDITIONAL LOCAL CURRENCY FROM USG, BOTH TO MEET CONTINUING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEED FHERE AND TO DEAL WITH EMBARRASSING QUESTION ALLEGED USG "FIRM PLEDGE". AS DEPT AWARE, ADMINISTERING THIS PROGRAM IN REMOTE AND BACKWARD AREA LIKE SOUTH SUDAN HAS PROVEN FAR MORE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX TASK THAN ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED. WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY HOPE SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENT CAN BE PROVIDED EMBASSY BY COB NOVEMBER 14 RPT 14 WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN DISCOURAGING JAMIESON FROM PURSUING PLEDGE ISSUE IN

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